

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 23, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol S-128
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol S-146A
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
Committee on Appropriations
SD-131
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
Committee on Appropriations
SH-125
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairman Reed, and Ranking Member Murkowski:

As the Senate Appropriations Committee works to develop a final Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 spending measure, we respectfully request that your committee fully support the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. The PILT program provides critical funding to nearly 1,900 counties in 49 states and 3 U.S. territories. While the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 included a placeholder for PILT, we want to make certain that the program is funded in the upcoming appropriations bill.

PILT is authorized at \$425 million for FY 2014 to help offset losses to local governments from the presence of non-taxable federal lands. As you know, property taxes fund county governments allowing them to provide essential services such as law enforcement, public safety, infrastructure maintenance, education, and health services for local communities. A fully funded PILT program helps to offset the loss of these important revenues and fulfill the federal government's obligation to local communities with large amounts of federal land.

We urge you to consider the economic hardship and uncertainty that counties across the nation will face if the PILT program is not given consistent funding. We understand the Appropriations Committee has some tough funding decisions in the coming weeks, and we appreciate your consideration of this important issue. Moving forward, we hope that we can work together to seek a long-term solution to provide a consistent and stable source of funding for the nation's PILT counties.

Sincerely,



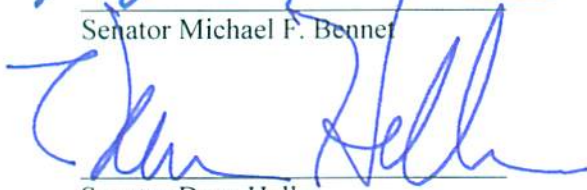
Senator Michael B. Enzi



Senator Tom Udall



Senator Michael F. Bennet



Senator Dean Heller



Senator Carl Levin



Senator James Risch



Senator John D. Rockefeller IV



Senator Mike Crapo



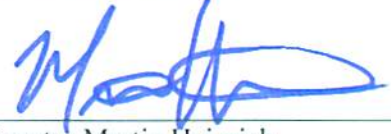
Senator Kay R. Hagan



Senator Tim Scott



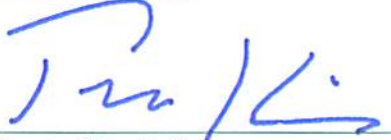
Senator James Inhofe



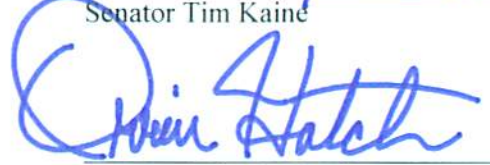
Senator Martin Heinrich



Senator Mike Lee



Senator Tim Kaine



Senator Orrin G. Hatch



Senator Debbie Stabenow



Senator John Barrasso